

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th NOVEMBER 2021 via ZOOM

Present: Peter Brennan, Frank Quaid, Amanda Mooney, Tom Byrne, Pat O’Suilleabhan, Brian Carty, Philip Beck, Jim Ruttle, Stephen Fitzgerald, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cllr. Dermot O’Brien, Cllr. Peir Leonard and Cllr. Melanie Corrigan.

Apologies: Jason Mulhall, Lorraine Hennessy, Frank Curran, Vibeke Delahunt, Aisling Heffernan and Eileen Cullen.

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson (CO), Martina Byrne, Aisling Hubbard and Barbara Mason.

Item 1 Welcome & Apologies

Cllr. Pat Kennedy welcomed everybody to the meeting. He introduced Aisling Hubbard, Co-ordinator of the Sports Partnership and he gave the apologies.

Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the LCDC meeting of 27th October was adopted with no matters arising.
Proposed by Stephen Fitzgerald
Seconded by Frank Quaid.

Item 2 SICAP updates

Stephen Fitzgerald gave the SICAP update –

(i) Annual Plans 2022: Pobal have asked Local Development Companies to pause submission of annual plans 2022 which previously had a submission date of November 12th. This is because the Department has just been informed that SICAP will be awarded a 10% increase in budget, but the Minister responsible, Minister Joe O’Brien, wants to assess what this increase should be spent on and then advise the Programme Implementers to incorporate this into their 2022 workplans. We are therefore awaiting this advisory note and a new date for the submission of annual plans.

There followed a discussion on the growing issue of food poverty among marginalised households and the importance of SICAP in providing supports in this area.

(ii) Draft Audit Reports: The draft audit reports of the 2020 SICAP Programme recently carried out by accountancy firm Crowleys DFK on behalf of the LCDC and Wicklow County Council, were issued to each Partnership last week. Each Partnership will revert with their comments. Once both reports have been finalised they will be circulated to the LCDC.

Pat Kennedy thanked Stephen for his report.

Item 3 LECP updates

Michael explained that the LECP report circulated prior to the meeting had not changed much since the previous meeting but he updated the members about the decisions due at the end of November on the applications for the Town & Village Renewal funding.

Pat Kennedy explained to the committee that Richella Wood who dealt with the Age Friendly programme and assisted with the Town & Village Renewal, among other items, had moved from the

CCSD section to take up a position in Greystones Municipal District office. He welcomed Grainne O'Neill who will take over from Richella.

Item 4 Healthy Ireland – Healthy Communications Programme

Aisling Hubbard gave her report on this

Ballywaltrim, Bray has been selected as a 'Healthy Communities' site with an investment of €250,000 secured

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme is a cross-Government initiative, launched by Health Minister Stephen Donnelly and Minister of State Frank Feighan, with annual funding of €13m from the Department of Health.

Healthy Communities is a partnership between the HSE, local authorities, communities, statutory, voluntary and community groups to deliver increased health and wellbeing services in 19 community areas across Ireland. The Ballywaltrim area of Bray has been selected as one of these sites. The programme aims to improve the long-term health and well-being of people living in these communities. Initiatives will be delivered to help promote and improve overall health and wellbeing through partner groups working together to provide a range of dedicated services to build lasting improvements.

Initially this programme will come with two important supports, a dedicated Healthy communities local development officer which the County Council is now recruiting for and a Community Enhancement fund of €250,000. The proposal for the enhancement fund was developed through consultation with partners i.e. Wicklow County Council Community Section, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, Bray Municipal District, Health Wicklow Coordinator, Bray Area Partnership & other community groups that time allowed.

Public need has been assessed through interagency meetings and discussion with users' groups in the area. The outlined projects will also build on planned intervention programmes and developments in the area.

Works to be funded include;

- 3 Community kitchens to be installed in Bray at SPECS (Supporting Services & Early Childhood Services), Ballywaltrim Community Centre & Giltspur Community Facility at a cost of €12,000 each €36,000
- Reinstall GAA & Soccer posts €20,000
- Upgrade Sports Pavilion & install new accessible toilets / refit showers €20,000
- Ballywaltrim Artificial Bouldering Rocks €20,000
- Ballywaltrim Playground Calisthenics Outdoor Exercise Equipment €30,000
- Ballywaltrim Playground Mural €2,000
- New 3v3 Basketball Courts and futsal pitch €20,000
- Installation of Outdoor Gym and Fitness Equipment for community use €100,000
- Healthy Ireland branded mural €2,000

Recruitment

Recruitment is underway for a Sláintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer at Grade 6 level. This post is advertised on the County Council Website, LinkedIn and in the Wicklow People. Closing date is Thursday 25th November.

Extension to timeframe of Healthy Ireland round 3 & 4

An extension to the timeframe for delivery of activities under Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3/Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF) from 31st December 2021 to 31st March 2022 has been made. The purpose of this 3 month extension is to provide additional time for the delivery of approved actions/activities and the achievement of full spend under HIF Round 3, and to facilitate planning for Healthy Ireland Round 4. It is envisaged that round 4 will be a three year programme of works.

Additional funding will be made available to LCDCs to continue the employment of Healthy Ireland Co-ordinators in 2022.

Due to the extension of Round 3 to 31st March 2022, the date for the online submission of the final financial and progress reports for HIF/CMHF for the period 1st July 2021 to 31st March 2022 has been pushed back to **Friday 6th May 2022.**

There followed a discussion around this.

Pat Kennedy felt that the issues of Food Poverty and Older People's Health should remain on the agenda. He also asked if Aisling would give a presentation to the committee at some stage in the future on the work of the Sports Partnership.

Item 5 Any Other Business

Michael Nicholson spoke about funding of €282,686.00, announced as part of the special Government fund to help Wicklow Community groups, impacted by Covid. This Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs. He told them that the closing date for applications for County Wicklow will be on Monday, 31st January 2022.

Frank Quaid told the meeting that after seeking bus shelters in Baltinglass for 7 years, they have now got 2.

Tom Byrne asked if he could have any documents required for the monthly meetings as hard copies.

Cllr. Dermot O'Brien told the meeting that Co.Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg held its annual Youth Summit on Nov 12th where over 100 young people from across Wicklow gathered online to hear inputs from Cathaoirleach of Wicklow CoCo Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow older persons Council Mai Quaid, Jigsaw's Wicklow's Adam Burke, UN Youth Delegate Treasa Cadogan and directly from COP26 youth advocate Mair Kelly. Young people on the day also discussed the biggest issues for young people in Co.Wicklow, the top ones emerging were mental health, climate change, transport, school and Covid. They also discussed youth attitudes towards drugs and the value of the youth voice. Credit to the Comhairle Members who helped put the event together and the four hosts on the day, Anjelica, Cayden, Frankie and Kate.

There was a discussion about the unfortunate rise in the drug problem locally and Pat Kennedy confirmed that the gardai are aware. It was felt that there was a lot of proactive work needed to ensure this problem was addressed.

Philip Beck informed the meeting that this would be his last meeting as he would be stepping down from the committee. He was thanked for his input and commitment.

Cllr. Kennedy thanked everybody for their work during the year, the committee, the Partnerships, Stephen and Patricia for the work they do in the background with SICAP and Michael Nicholson and all his staff.

As there would be no meeting in December, he wished everybody a happy Christmas.

Item 7 Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be early in 2022 and the committee will be informed of the date when it's decided.

Signed: _____
Pat Kennedy.
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____